

NASA budget passbacks, p.2



ERHS orchestra, p.6

Residents Provide Feedback For Upcoming Armory Project

by Ryan Colasanti

On Tuesday, April 8, representatives from the City of Greenbelt and the AMAR Group LLC – a Washington, D.C., based architecture, management and research firm – held the first of four community outreach meetings to discuss different commu-

nity concepts for the Greenbelt Armory site with about 20 residents and councilmembers.

As attendees arrived, they were greeted by AMAR Group staff and handed an agenda, a

See **ARMORY**, page 9



Town hall attendees placed yellow dots for ideas they liked and blue for those they disliked. The natural design received the most yellow dots at the meeting. The concept that received the most blue dots was the commercial design.

Poetry Is Power, Says Author

by Amy Hansen

With yells and screeches that would be more common at an athletic pep rally than an author visit, Newbery and Emmy-Award winner Kwame Alexander charged through his community presentation at the cafeteria of Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) on March 18. About 180 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, as well as some community members, gathered for a festive evening. The GMS step team performed, warming up the crowd. Then Alexander started speaking, and the audience stayed with him every step of the way – laughing at his jokes, answering his call and response and filling in rhymes when he made up verse on the spot.

“I wrote my first poem in middle school,” Alexander said, adding, “it wasn’t very good.” But it gave him a taste for the energy of words. When he went to college at Virginia Tech, he studied poetry under Nikki



Kwame Alexander wows the crowd with his rhythmic poetry and enthusiastic storytelling at Greenbelt Middle School on March 18.

Giovanni. Poetry became part of his life. Poetry became part of his strength. Poetry became what he did. He met a woman he was interested in and he wrote her poems. The one he recited to the GMS audience included the refrain “I’ve dated a lot of girls in my life/ You one day are going

See **POETRY**, page 6

Supreme Court Upholds Abrego Garcia's Return; Hearings Continue

by Diya Shah



A large crowd gathers in support of Kilmar Abrego Garcia outside the courthouse on Tuesday afternoon.

Last week the News Review reported on the April 4 court case of Beltsville resident Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia and the protest that took place in Greenbelt surrounding his wrongful deportation to El Salvador. On Thursday, April 10, the Supreme Court upheld the District Court’s decision that the Trump admin-

istration must facilitate Abrego Garcia’s return to the U.S. In her opinion, Justice Sonia Sotomayor stated, “the District Court should continue to ensure that the Government lives up to its obligations to follow the law.”

However, on Sunday, April 13 the Trump administration defiantly stated it was not required

to engage in any return efforts. In filings in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, federal attorneys said that the Supreme Court ruling required the administration to return Abrego Garcia only if he is released by the Salvadoran government. They also argued

See **HEARINGS**, page 16

FY 2026 Budget

Public Works Budget, Projects Featured in Council Worksession

by Deanna Dawson

The Greenbelt City Council held its third budget worksession on April 2 to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget for Public Works and capital projects. The capital projects budget will be covered in a separate article.

After introducing the city staff in attendance, City Manager Josué Salmerón noted that many of the things that are visible and touch Greenbelt residents every day are done by Public Works. Mayor Emmett Jordan added that Public Works employees also serve as first responders in snowstorms and address other things that need immediate attention.

Budget Overview

Salmerón stated that the department has tightened their FY 2026 budget by keeping a few positions vacant: assistant director for operations, a building maintenance position and a parks position. The other significant difference in this budget is an adjustment to waste collection: a 20 percent phased increase (over two years) due to an increase in the county’s landfill tipping fees. This will be the first increase in nine years.

Highlights

Public Works Director Brian Kim reported some news and accomplishments. The solar farm that the city has subscribed to (Clagett Farm Community Solar Project) should go online imminently and could offset about 60 percent of the cost of electricity used by the city. The department expects to meet or exceed their grant goals for upcoming fiscal years which would cover about 15 percent of the annual budget. The department has been awarded a Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant to replace the chiller at the Community Center and a Community Development Block Grant for Cherrywood Lane roadworks and concrete improvements. Finally, Kim reported

that the department currently oversees over \$6 million in projects to improve and maintain the city’s infrastructure.

Council Questions

Jordan asked if the vacant positions will have an effect on overtime and comp time for other Public Works staff. Salmerón responded that Kim had previously held the assistant director for operations position and has been able to absorb some of those job responsibilities into his current role. Kim confirmed that as technology and budget allow, the department is transitioning from gas-powered to electric tools. When asked about playgrounds he said they do quarterly and weekly inspections, noting that a staff member is now certified for playground safety inspection.

Waste Collection

Salmerón reported that options are being considered to reduce the amount of landfill trash generated in the city. One is a “pay-as-you-throw” model that includes a flat fee for pickup plus a cost based on the trash set out for pickup, so customers who generate more trash pay a higher cost. According to Tom Taylor, who spoke for the city’s Green

See **BUDGET**, page 10

What Goes On

Monday, April 21
Easter Monday, No Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 23
7:30 p.m., City Council Budget Worksession: Recreation, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

NASA Receives Brutal Budget Passback, Targets Include GSFC

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO COURTESY NASA/CHRIS GUNN

NASA’s Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope in the big clean room at the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center.

The Trump Administration’s “passback,” which is an early version of the budget proposal from the administration to Congress, would almost halve NASA’s science budget. It could also significantly impact Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Greenbelt, in particular, which is home to approximately 10,000 federal employees and contractors.

A Greenbelter working at NASA headquarters, speaking to the News Review under the condition of anonymity, confirmed NASA received the passback on Friday, April 11. Under the passback’s budget, NASA will

face an approximately 20 percent cut overall but cuts will be concentrated in its Science Mission Directorate (SMD) which would be reduced by almost 50 percent, from over \$7 billion to \$3.9 billion, according to reporting from the Washington Post and Ars Technica. A source at NASA HQ says those numbers match what they’ve been told. In our March 20 issue, we reported SMD was being asked to plan for a 50- or 60-percent reduction and that GSFC may bear the brunt of the cuts.

Among many things that See NASA, page 13



THE BEST I CAN DO
THIS YEAR IS PET ROCKS.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985

Mary Lou Williamson, Editor
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

STAFF

Matt Arbach, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Laura Bonkosky, Jerry Bonnell, Letty Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Maurice Crawford, Deborah Daniel, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Joan Estenson, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Jim Giese, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Angie Gordon, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Michael Hartman, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Melanie Iversen, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Linda Lucas, Charlene MacAdams, Marc Manheimer, Anne Marigza, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Lois Rosado, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, René Sewell-Raysor, David Shapiro, Mary Sies, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Christopher Stark, Susan Taylor, Beth Terry, Daniel Thies, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Janice Wolf, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zelfiff.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Wedding Banquet

Wai-Tung (Winston Chao) and his boyfriend (Mitchell Lichtenstein) live happily as a gay couple in New York City. Wai-Tung has not been open about his sexuality with his Taiwanese parents (Sihung Lung, Ah-Leh Gua), and decides to acquiesce to their wish for a traditional Chinese union by marrying Wei-Wei (May Chin), a struggling artist desperate for a green card. But the simple arrangement turns into a lavish debacle when Wai-Tung’s parents plan an extravagant wedding banquet.

One to One: John & Yoko

An expansive and revelatory inside look at the 18 months John Lennon and Yoko Ono spent living in Greenwich Village in the early 1970s, the film delivers an immersive cinematic experience that brings to life electrifying, never-before-seen material and newly restored footage of Lennon’s only full-length, post-Beatles concert. With mind-blowing remastered audio overseen by their son, Sean Ono Lennon, the film is a seismic revelation that will challenge pre-existing notions of the iconic couple.

Blade

A half-mortal, half-immortal is out to avenge his mother’s death and rid the world of vampires. The modern-day technologically advanced vampires he is going after are in search of his special blood type needed to summon an evil god who plays a key role in their plan to execute the human race.

Story Time on Screen

This free program of stories, songs and a short film for children ages 1 to 5 is sponsored by Greenbelt Cinema in partnership with Prince George’s County Memorial Library System.



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
APRIL 18th - 24th

The Wedding Banquet (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (103 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:45 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Mon. 2:45 PM, 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:45 PM

Thurs. 7:45 PM

One To One: John & Yoko
(R) (CC) (2024) (100 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:30 PM

Mon. 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM

Thurs. 7:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM

Blade (R) (1998) (115 mins)
Cinema Pop!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 1:00 PM

Storytime On Screen - Free!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Our Neighbors

Our condolences to Mary Lou Williamson on the death of her son-in-law Brantley Tilman Jolly, Jr., on April 7, 2025. He was the husband of Mary Lou's daughter Carolyn who grew up in Greenbelt.

Many thanks to all the staff, volunteers and community members who came to the News Review's open house on Saturday, April 12. We all enjoyed meeting new people, getting insights into the many and varied roles needed to produce our weekly miracle and learning about opportunities for volunteering at our historic newspaper.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Next Favor's Table Community Giveaway

On Saturday, April 26 at 4 p.m. Favor's Table Community Giveaway will be giving away food, new shoes, clothes, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, sanitary pads and household items. Items are new or gently used. Kids must be present to receive toys and shoes. To receive diapers, bring baby's birth certificate/health insurance card. Come with bags. At Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road, in the rear parking lot behind the church.



Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 20

An ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Buddy Attick Park on Sunday, April 20 at 7 a.m. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on. The rain location will be the Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads.

Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience Robbins at patience.robbins@gmail.com.

Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge


The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. April's theme is Grasshoppers, Praying Mantises and Walking Sticks.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5760. Visit fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center for more information.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY ALLEN JONES

From left, Christine Doran, Carol Griffith, Deanna Dawson, Charlene MacAdams and Anne Gardner talk about the process of designing the paper at the News Review open house, fondly watched over by the spirit of Eleanor Roosevelt.



"Truthfulness is the foundation of all human virtues."
– 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community


www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

We Preach Christ Crucified



(1 COR. 1:18-25)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Rd
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Maundy Thursday:
April 17, 7 pm

Good Friday:
April 18, 12:00 Noon

Easter Sunday:
9:30 am



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.*

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and
Easter at St. Andrews Episcopal Church**

***"You can cut all the flowers but
you cannot keep spring from
coming." – Pablo Neruda***

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 7:30 pm:
Holy Eucharist with foot washing

Good Friday, April 18:

- 11:15 a.m. and 6:45 p.m., ***Stations of the Cross***
- Noon & 7:30 p.m., ***Good Friday Liturgy***

Saturday, April 19:

- 9 a.m.: ***Morning Prayer for Holy Saturday***
- 10 a.m. sharp: ***Easter Egg Hunt***
- 7:30 p.m.: ***The Great Vigil of Easter***

Easter Day, April 20: 10:30 a.m.: *Holy Eucharist*****



**All Are
Welcome!**

**4512 College Avenue
College Park
MD 20740-3302**
www.saeccp.org
(301) 864-8880

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION

**Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**A Roman Catholic
Intentional Eucharistic
Community**

**OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owneregroups.io](https://ccg1985+owneregroups.io)**



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero



Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate hope with us.

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM
for Worship
and Church School**

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

The Bible Says...

Resurrection Sunday!
Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life;
the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies."
John 11:25





**MCF
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community 

April 20, 2025 at 3:00 pm
Rise and Shine

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

In the spirit of our April theme (Emergence), we'll shine some contemplative light on the interfaith intersection of Easter – through a divine feminine prism.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper
April 17 7:30pm +

Good Friday
April 18
11am: Living Stations
with the Confirmandi
2pm +: Liturgy of
the Lord's Passion

Easter Sunday
Saturday, April 19 8pm +
The Great Vigil of Easter
April 20 Sunday Masses
8, 9:30, and 11am +

+ live streamed on YouTube



**Saint Hugh
Catholic Church**

135 Crescent Rd.
sthughofgrenoble.org

The Paschal Triduum



City Notes

The City Manager and Economic Development hosted an Armory Community Stakeholder Meeting. Another meeting, with Planning and Greenbelt Homes, Inc. leadership, concerned Pepco streetlights, solid waste rates, WSSC and storm sewers.

Several departments welcomed an earmark-related site visit by Senator Chris Van Hollen’s staff. Finance attended a Treasury Department workshop about reporting, noncompliance and debt management, then followed up with Hagerty Consulting.

Information Technology installed internet access for Park Rangers at Schrom Hills Park and Animal Control responded to 51 calls. Public Works, Planning and others discussed electric vehicle charging at the Community Center. Tile demolition began on the indoor pool deck. Horticulture/Parks managed construction of accessible bus shelters and installed recycling equipment at Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SLRC).

An Artful Afternoon at the Community Center and SLRC featured watercolor painting. Therapeutic Recreation and Environmental hosted an Active Aging trip to the county recycling facility.

The Museum welcomed 40 visitors for an open house, and, with Park Rangers, supported a Reparations Commission town hall.

At the Library

Greenbelt Library’s regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, April 18, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12988941](#).

Wednesday, April 23, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12988854](#).

Thursday, April 24, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12988921](#).

Storytime on Screen

Monday, April 21, 10:30 a.m. ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway. Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS), is offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/12986715](#).

Upcoming Virtual Events

PGCMLS continues to offer virtual events for the public. A full schedule of upcoming programs may be accessed at [pgcmls.info/events](#).

Passport Services

Greenbelt Library serves as a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility. Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting [pgcmls.info/passport-services](#).

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW
Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636
No special equipment needed





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 21-25

Monday, April 21 - **NO MEETING**

Tuesday, April 22 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, On the Agenda:**

Tuesday, April 22 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY / GREEN TEAM, On the Agenda:** Pay As You Throw Presentation by WasteZero, Green Man Festival Participation, Update on Solar Farm, EV Charging Station Update, Recommendation for Solar Projects at Youth Center and Green Ridge House, Electrification Feasibility Discussion, Update on Lawsuit Against County by Some Residents, Curbside Compost Pickup Grant Update, Landfill Cost Increase and City Trash/Recycling Increase, Bottle Bill Update

Wednesday, April 23 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - RECREATION / WORK SESSION - RECODIFICATION PROJECT & PROPOSED CITY CODE UPDATE**

Thursday, April 24 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda:** Dynamic Governance Review, Stewardship Updates and Discussion, Fire: BARC Brushfire and Campfires in Hamilton Woods, Green Man Festival Outreach Exhibit May 10-11, FPAB Board Member Recruitment

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/calendar.

ELECTRONICS & STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Saturday, April 26, 9 am - 12 pm
Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

Electronics Recycling - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords. NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6. NEW: egg cartons and food trays!

NO PAINT RECYCLING IN APRIL.

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004.

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 24, 7-9 pm

Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Rd

****Life's Uncertainty Is Inevitable. Your Financial Plan Doesn't Have to Be.****

The City of Greenbelt invites residents to a dynamic and interactive Financial Literacy Workshop on Thursday, April 24, at the Greenbelt City Council Chambers. This hands-on session will provide guided assistance on how to financially plan for life's uncertainties and unforeseen events, equipping participants with tools and strategies to build resilience and peace of mind.

Hosted in partnership with Greenbelt's Constituent Services, the Economic Development Department, and Financial Development Officers, the workshop underscores the City's commitment to supporting residents in achieving financial stability and confidence. All community members are encouraged to attend. Seating is limited—early arrival is recommended.

For more information, please contact Greenbelt's Constituent Services Coordinator at galvarez@greenbeltnmd.gov.

JOIN THE CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city? Do you want to have a say in how our local government operates? Now is your chance to make a difference!

The City of Greenbelt is forming a Charter Review Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to our city's charter. We are looking for dedicated residents who are eager to contribute their time and expertise to this important process.

Submit an application at the following link: <https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/boards-committees/application-for-appointment-to-boards-and-committees>.

For more information or to apply, please contact City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov or (301) 474-3870.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

For 6 months your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt. Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity.

To register, visit <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt>.

Questions? Luisa Robles: lrobles@greenbeltnmd.gov or (240) 542-2153.

ANIMAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Animal Services would like to let you know that there are resources available to you when you need help for your pets! Financial resources are available based on your needs, whether it be help with pet food/ supplies, help with spaying/neutering your pet, or just help financially with medical costs. Please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltnmd.gov if you have more questions.

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

Material Drop-Off

We're looking for materials to add to the City's *Welcome Kits* for new residents and visitors. Please drop-off at the Municipal Building to

Chondria Andrews
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

NO LATER THAN 4 PM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 25

CHEARS FOOD FOREST

Saturday, April 26, 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Join our community effort to rejuvenate the riparian buffer at the CHEARS Food Forest. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive species and install native trees, shrubs, and perennials to enhance the crucial riparian habitat.

To register, contact Environmental Coordinator, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltnmd.gov or sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AAA92BA6FCC34-49105067-city>.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §4, “Creation; Qualifications; Compensation” of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on April 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

*** The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk’s office. For more information, please contact the City Manager’s office at (301) 474-8000.**

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO BE HELD DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

This is the first of two Public Hearings on the budget. The second will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025.

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged.

All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget.

Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT

Saturday, April 26 11 am - 2 pm

Beltway Plaza Back Parking Lot, 6000 Greenbelt Rd

The City of Greenbelt invites you to our first-ever Touch-A-Truck Event! Bring the whole family for an exciting hands-on experience to explore fire trucks, police vehicles, utility trucks, and more! You will also meet the dedicated professionals who operate these vehicles, learn how they keep our community safe, and even hop in the driver's seat! This is a free event for all ages.

Contact Gizelle Alvarez at galvarez@greenbeltnmd.gov.

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE ADVOCACY PRESENTATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 1 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

Learn about autism acceptance and available resources in this informative session led by the Autism Society of Maryland. We hope to see you there. Together, we can create a more inclusive world-one act of awareness and advocacy at a time!

Contact: Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056, pgardner@greenbeltnmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES
VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

FREE SENIOR PLANET CLASSES - MEDIA & HEALTH
FOR ADULTS 60+. FREE. IN-PERSON, 11 AM - 12:15 PM
Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

April 29. Ridesharing Apps

Apps have changed the way people get around! Learn about Uber and Lyft and the pros and cons of both.

May 6. Introduction to AI

Learn basic ideas around artificial intelligence (AI), how it's being used, its limitations, and how it will shape the future.

May 8. AI & Disinformation

Explore how AI is being used to create convincing fakes and clone voices.

May 20. Everyday Uses of AI

Learn how AI is already present in everyday tasks and how its being used across industries so that you can take advantage of the technology.

May 22. Is That AI?

Learn how to differentiate real images versus AI and become a tech savvy internet user by learning to do a reverse image search of images you find online.

These classes are facilitated by Flora Li, Brendy Maddox, and Katherine Farzin. To register, email Kelly Lange at klange@greenbeltnmd.gov or call Brendy Maddox at (240) 424-0302.

School News

POETRY continued from page 1



Dancers perform at the Poetry is Power middle school event.

to be my wife.” She said yes.

The power of poetry kept growing as Alexander told about his debut novel, *Crossover*, a book in verse about twin brothers who play basketball. One rejection led to a rewrite, which lead to another rejection, which lead to another rewrite, and so forth, until, after sending it to 18 publishers, Alexander was getting ready to self-publish. Then he received an acceptance letter; it was published in 2014. The next year, he got a call from the Newbery committee – the group of librarians who choose the best children’s book of the year. And here Alexander paused the narrative to tell everyone what he was thinking about at that very moment. “Would I be getting this call if I had given up after the third rejection?” “No!” the students yelled back. *Crossover* won the Newbery Medal and was eventually made into a Disney television series. Alexander wrote the series and co-produced it with LeBron James (a fact that got one of biggest screams of the evening). Eventually, Alexander took home an Emmy for best teen series. He now has 44 books out, with more in the works.

That was his story, but the students had questions. Among other things, he answered queries about how to write better (read

more), how to get rid of writer’s block (trade off projects), and what is Alexander’s favorite fruit (cotton candy grapes). Eventually, Principal Marcellus Clement took the mic to announce that the event was over. “If you think you might want a free copy of *Rebound* – the sequel to *Crossover*...” Students leapt up and rushed to the table before he finished the sentence. “Don’t run,” Clement added belatedly. Books were handed out. Alexander signed them. Reading commenced immediately. In short, Elise Stack, the Reading department chair who spearheaded the event, was thrilled. She had worked on this project for a year. Coordinating with other reading teachers, she made sure many students read either *Crossover* or *Booked*, both part of the school curriculum. She secured community involvement and got funding from *BCAUSEICAN*, a local nonprofit. Then she had to reschedule due to snow. The headaches were worth the effort. “Kwame Alexander was truly everything we had hoped for – it was an engaging, energizing and inspirational experience for the students. We were able to welcome parents into our building, and the whole community seemed inspired upon the conclusion of the evening.”



Students at GMS pick up free books before the presentation.

Eleanor Roosevelt Orchestras Shine at Year’s End Concert

by Owen Kelley



All four orchestras of Eleanor Roosevelt High School perform onstage together at the end of the April 10 concert in the school’s auditorium.



Eleanor Roosevelt’s Chamber Orchestra performs Vivaldi’s Concerto Grosso with soloists Cecilia Hass (violin), Bailey Price (violin) and John Kelley (cello).

- Photos by Owen Kelley

The four string orchestras of Eleanor Roosevelt High School received enthusiastic applause and cheers at their last concert of the year, held on Thursday, April 10. They were conducted by Dr. David Yarbrough, who has directed the high school’s orchestra program for the past 21 years. The 77 students were joined on stage by several alumni, guest pianist Naoko Kawashima and percussionists Violet Ridge, Jason Kresge and Brendan Hille.

The four string orchestras played pieces that spanned centuries. The Chamber Orchestra performed Vivaldi’s Concerto Grosso, which was composed in 1711. The freshman orchestra, Roosevelt Strings, performed Postcards from Russia, which was arranged in 2005 by Carrie Gruselle.

The end-of-year concert let parents and friends hear pieces that the students had already per-

formed or will soon perform elsewhere. The Symphony Orchestra performed Bizet’s Farandole, which they will perform again at Roosevelt’s graduation ceremony in May. At the Thursday concert, the Symphony and Chamber orchestras teamed up to play two pieces that they had performed in March at the Prince George’s County high school band and orchestra festival. At the festival, they received high marks for their performance of Balmages’ To Tame the Raging Rapids and Gruselle’s Deep River.

On Thursday, the stage was full when all four orchestras combined to perform Sheldon’s African Adventure and the Intermezzo from the opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Near the end of the concert, several end-of-year awards were given to students. The audience was surprised and delighted to learn that two seniors were

awarded a Michael McCarthy Scholarship to continue their musical studies in college. These scholarships were awarded to Gus Colandrea (bass) and Braeden Keffer-Leake (viola).

Three alumni of the orchestra program took the podium to pay tribute to Yarbrough, who announced that he would be retiring at the end of this academic year. Yarbrough said that, as a music educator, he is lucky because every day he has the rewarding experience of getting to know the best side of young people through music. Roosevelt principal Dr. Portia Barnes addressed the audience, saying that she had enjoyed working and having conversations with Yarbrough.



Easter Changes Everything!

Come Discover Why at MCF Community Church

Sundays, 10a - 11:15a

Greenbelt Elementary School

66 Ridge Rd., Greenbelt, 20770

MCFcc.org



School News

\$7 Million Payment to Substitute Among Issues in PGCPs Audit

by Christine Condon

A Prince George’s County substitute teacher was paid over \$7 million in 2022 – and two months passed before the school system recouped the funds.

That was the most remarkable finding in a new legislative audit of the county school system, which described a number of ongoing issues with the system’s payroll, procurement and human resources procedures.

The Maryland Department of Legislative Services audit also found that the school system failed to consistently complete a screening process for employees who have contact with children, and that it failed to investigate 9,376 missing items identified in a 2023 inventory, which were valued at about \$6.3 million.

School system contracts also came under the microscope, and auditors concluded that the school district’s “procurement policies were not sufficiently comprehensive and were not consistently used when obtaining goods and services.” The school system did not always prepare written justifications or seek school board approval for expenses, according to the audit.

Teacher Overpayment

The audit, dated March 25 and sent to the legislature’s Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee, said the 2022 overpayment for the substitute teacher occurred when a school system employee mistakenly entered the teacher’s identification number in the “hours” field. That led to the teacher being paid for approximately 73,000 work days, rather than three.

School system officials didn’t realize the overpayment had occurred until more than 50 days later. They recovered the funds within a few days, the audit said.

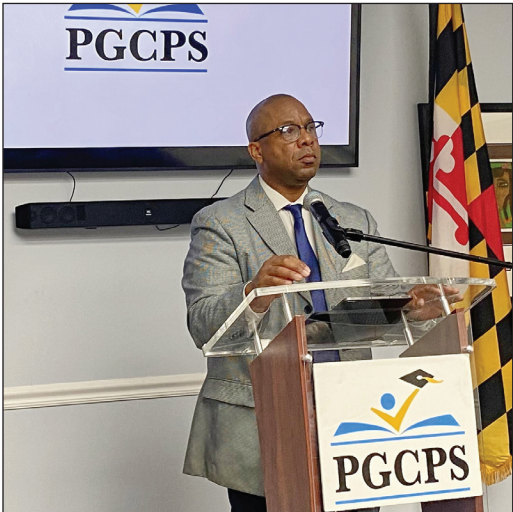
Payroll problems in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) have been persistent, the latest audit said. “Similar conditions regarding the human resource and payroll supervisory reviews were commented upon in our two preceding audit reports,” the audit said.

The school system did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the audit Monday, March 31. But in its written response to the audit, the system said it has “implemented several preventive measures to improve payroll accuracy and efficiency,” including hiring two new staffers, enhancing training and setting new limits on payroll data entries.

“Any staff member will be held accountable for overpayments that were caused by their inaccurate entries,” the school system added.

Employee Screening

In 2019, a new Maryland law took effect requiring school systems to conduct special screenings for employees who would have contact with minors. But auditors checked 10 employees who had been hired in Prince



Superintendent Millard House II

George’s after the law’s effective date, and only three had been screened even though they had been working in the system for six months or more, according to the audit.

As part of the screenings, school systems must send forms to an applicant’s prior employers, certifying the person was never the subject of a child sexual abuse or sexual misconduct investigation by any employer that resulted in a finding.

In Prince George’s County, the process was monitored by an employee “who did not send forms to prior employers or failed to follow up with those employers that did not return a completed form,” the school system said in its response to the audit.

But PGCPS maintained that three of the 10 applicants didn’t need forms, because they did not have prior jobs where they had contact with children. One of the 10 applicants had a foreign employer, to whom a form was not sent.

The system said it has since debuted an electronic signature program to expedite the screening forms and pledged to follow up with the state about “instances where prior employers do not return the required form.”

Procurement Irregularities

In evaluating the school system’s procurement procedures, state auditors raised a red flag on two purchases in particular.

Auditors found fault with a contract for cameras aboard school buses because it wasn’t put out for a competitive bid, and auditors questioned higher-than-average fees paid per bus. (Greenbelt News Review

editor’s note: The News Review reported on problems with this contract between PGCPS and Bus Patrol in the February 25 issue.) In response, the county pledged to ensure that future procurements comply with state law, and to document the reasoning for fee amounts.

In addition, the county paid two nonpublic schools \$61.3 million for special education services between 2020 and 2023, but there was no written contract and no board approval, according to the state audit. The county pledged to require written contracts “with each nonpublic school where we place a student,” and to submit an annual report to the board about the placements and expenditures.

Inventory Failures

Prince George’s school officials also failed to follow the system’s policy for equipment tracking, which requires full inventories of any items over \$1,500 in value to be conducted every three years.

The school system conducted a 2019 inventory but skipped 2022’s inventory, citing concerns about Covid-19. PGCPS completed a partial 2023 audit but did not follow up on the findings, which indicated more than \$6 million worth of equipment was not accounted for.

In its response, the school system said it initiated a new inventory in spring 2024, beginning with student electronic devices in each school. This spring PGCPS will conduct an inventory of other classroom technology. The system is also finalizing a plan to complete inventories every three years, which “will be implemented beginning January 2026 with an estimated completion of January 2029.”

Christine Condon covers state politics with a focus on environmental and energy issues for Maryland Matters, marylandmatters.org, where this article first appeared. It is reprinted here under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 4.0.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM J. FORD

David Craig Scholarship Applications Due Soon

by Doug Mangum

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund (DCMSF) board chooses an Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) senior each year to receive a scholarship for tuition assistance in higher education.

To be considered for this year’s scholarship, fill out the application form and submit electronically by Wednesday, April 30.

The award recipient is recognized for average-to-above-average academic standing, with greater emphasis given to those qualities that David possessed: active involvement in religious community, leadership in civic community and participation in individual and team sports.

The value of the award is \$3,000 per year and this year’s award is a one-time payout of \$3,000. The DCMSF formed in 1986 in response to David’s untimely death in February 1984. Its first recipient was chosen from the ERHS class of 1987, and an award has been granted each year at ERHS, David’s alma mater, for the past 38 years.

This will be the final selec-

tion as the fund is being transitioned from a fund managed by its Board of Directors to a designated scholarship at Frostburg State University (FSU) managed by the Frostburg Foundation.

This dissolution act restricts the award to a graduate of ERHS attending FSU (David Craig class of 1983 and Tennis Team letter winner). The scholarship selection and payouts are now being turned over to the institution he graduated from. Donations can be sent directly to the scholarship #40403 through the Frostburg Foundation, www.frostburg.edu/foundation/giving_day/giving-day.php.



Apply using this QR code or at davidcraigmemorial.wixsite.com/davidcraigmemorialsc.

Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café
Saturday Apr. 26 from 10 am - 2 pm
at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (volunteers needed as well). Bring your bikes, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

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Saturdays 10 am - noon,
Sundays 11 am - 1 pm
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>

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7:00 PM

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26-27 APRIL

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Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 27, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Clothing - Shoes - Household Items
Small Appliances - Books - No Furniture or Oversized Items
Bagged or small boxes

Council Mulls Stipends, Cars, Bumps, Fireworks and Rents

by Cathie Meetre

Greenbelt City Council, apart from funding discussions covered in the March 27 issue, considered a wide range of other concerns during its March 12 regular meeting.

Charter Amendment

Council passed a charter amendment necessary to confirm 2024’s action to raise councilmember stipends because a year-to-year budget action did not address the ongoing nature of the action, whereas a charter amendment carries it forward year to year. All councilmembers except Councilmember Rodney Roberts voted for the charter amendment. Resident Bill Orleans was vocal on the topic, saying that in his opinion, city council didn’t deserve the \$2,000 raise they got in 2024.

Speed Bumps

Two residents tag-teamed to request speed bumps at the Gardenway and Crescent intersection. Regina Smith and Joan Estenson pointed out that the busy intersection is used by seniors and students and hosts two well-used bus stops. They complained that some motorists did a rolling stop and didn’t wait for pedestrians to cross. Estenson, whose mobility is limited, also noted that the crossing contained a “pedestrian speed bump” that impeded walking across and that she wasn’t able to hop or run out of danger. This attracted the concern of City

Manager Josué Salmerón, who requested clarification.

Glenn Ivey Rep Speaks

Ethan Sweet, liaison to U.S. Representative Ivey, expressed Ivey’s concerns about the Trump administration and relayed that Ivey supports unions, feels the president is acting outside his authority and offers constituents help through the [ivey.house.gov](https://www.ivey.house.gov) website. Other news included service academy nominations and paid internships.

Meeting Notification

Roberts raised a communications problem where he fails to receive proper notifications of some city upcoming activities – particularly interviews with prospective board and committee members – claiming that these interviews are meetings and thus should generate a written notification to him. After some discussion, the underlying problem was determined to be the fact that Roberts does not currently possess a computer or read email. Salmerón promised to work with Roberts to ensure his receipt of required information.

ARPA-Funded Work

Salmerón’s report included an update on work on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-funded improvements at Greenbelt Lake and Schrom Hills, with fencing and grading ready to go in. Mayor Emmett Jordan requested that the city communicate this

directly to homeowners’ associations for the surrounding communities.

State Rental Legislation

Recent deadlines relating to state bills prompted discussion of those that were relevant to the city. Councilmember Jenni Pompei initiated discussion on a bill that affects renters. Under current state law, a renter can be evicted for no reason; for example, they don’t have to be behind on their rent. A new bill to protect renters would restrict this, but some senators attached an amendment that is worded so it boils down to a choice between rent stabilization (a limit on the increase in rent between one renter and the next) or no-reason eviction.

Those who favor limiting no-reason evictions tend to want rent stabilization. Pompei explained that the rental industry feels that if they can’t get rid of renters without cause, then they should at least be able to raise rents as much as they want. Pompei suggested, and council accepted, that the city write to the state legislature stating that they support a good-cause eviction bill without the attempt to remove rent stabilization.

Business/Services Sales Tax

Also targeted for comment was Maryland Senate Bill 1045

See **COUNCIL**, page 10

Braden Public Art Project

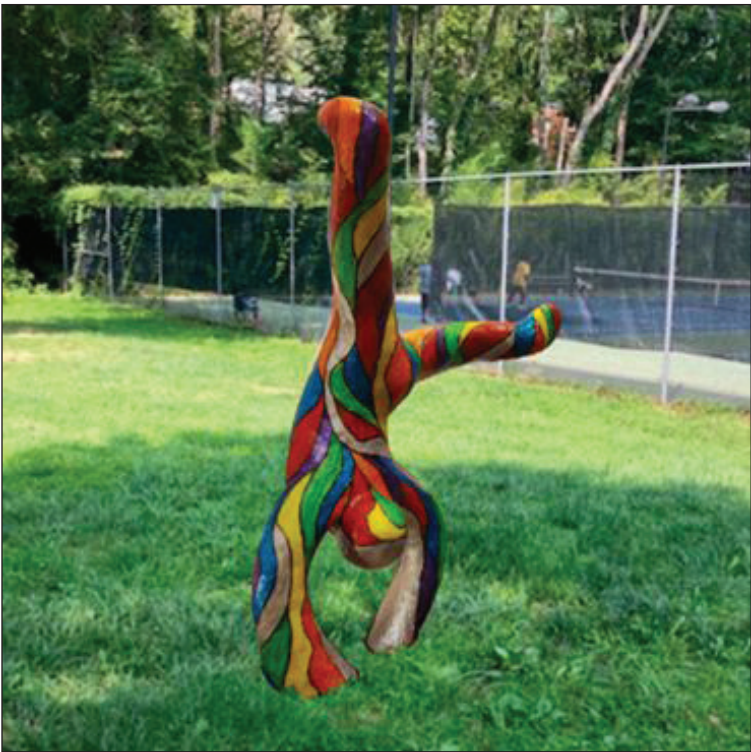


PHOTO COURTESY IMPACT ART

The proposed design of a sculpture to be installed at Braden Field

Preview the design of an anticipated public art project at the Braden Athletic Complex. Impact Art has designed a cartwheeling figure, 7 feet tall, intended to reflect community diversity and a joyful spirit of play. This project is sponsored by the City of

Greenbelt and funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. Public comments and questions are welcome through April 20. More information and an online form for comments and questions are available at greenbeltmd.gov/arts.



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ARMORY continued from page 1

paper survey, three yellow stickers, three blue stickers and sticky notes. Attendees were instructed to peruse four concepts for the Armory site including commercial use, municipal use and a fire station, and design principles including sustainability and renewables, Art Deco style and a nature-driven approach to the space, among others. Residents were asked to put yellow stickers on the designs they liked and blue on the ones they disliked.

The concept with the greatest number of blue stickers was the commercial design. Some in attendance felt the addition of commercial property would increase traffic, which would be a negative consequence of commercial design. In an online survey posted to the city’s website on March 27, over 40 percent of respondents categorized the armory as a “busy site,” which appeared as a concern in the survey. For those at the meeting, the natural design was the most liked of all the concepts and the fire station was a distant second. The municipal design received a mixed review.

The vote by residents at the event provided a juxtaposition to the survey responses. With a sample of 101 responses recorded before the event, the online survey showed that residents actually preferred the site to be used as a municipal building.

“It’s kind of interesting because it doesn’t necessarily jive with the surveys,” said Taylor Imes-Thomas from the AMAR Group.

Residents attending the meeting were quick to suggest that the survey wasn’t a significant representation of the community as a whole since the sample size was only 101 people. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Greenbelt’s 2023 population was estimated as 24,360. There is not a more current estimate.

Agreement

“[The attendees] were very clear to say that not enough of a sample has been taken yet to get a good read on what the takeaways are at this point,” said Imes-Thomas. “I will personally say that the majority of the people are in agreement with preserving a large portion of the wooded section at the site and with providing pedestrian linkages to connect the site with a neighborhood.”

Imes-Thomas was referring to the back two-thirds or more of the property that is covered by vegetation and trees. Throughout the meeting residents voiced their desire to keep that portion of the property intact. There was an idea that the area could be curated to have walking and biking trails, which over 50 percent of survey respondents supported.

More Meetings

Greenbelt residents will have two more chances in the next two weeks to voice opinions about the concept for the site. The AMAR Group and the City will hold two more meetings on Tuesdays April 22 and 29. The next meeting is called the charette phase. Residents that attend will be able to share ideas with the site drawing



When council toured the Armory building in October, following its acquisition, they found that copper wires had been stripped from electrical boxes, the ceiling was bowed and rubble had filled the corridor.

team and add their input while AMAR team members sketch site concepts. Imes-Thomas said attendees will also be allowed to sketch their own ideas for the site. The final meeting on April 29 will focus on finding a consensus among the different concepts presented. The hope is to have three concepts to present to the city council before the end of 2025, said City Manager Josué Salmerón.

“[The event] just reaffirms the kind of process we designed, having multiple meetings with stakeholders, to go over the surveys, collect feedback as we go along, and then at the end try to have consensus on the proposal that’s going to come from the citizens,” said Salmerón. A light dinner of sandwiches, sides and dips is being offered at each event because the meetings begin at 7 p.m.

An Expensive Overhaul

No matter the concept residents decide upon, the site will need a lengthy and expensive renovation and rehabilitation. The building was assessed to have high levels of asbestos, lead paint and substantial water damage and will require new electrical wiring (see the December 11, 2024 issue of the News Review). Imes-Thomas estimated the price to get the site to compliance would be about \$13 million.

“And so whatever council chooses to do, I think [they’ve] got to be very intentional because it’s going to cost us a lot of money,” Salmerón said. “As you

can see just to remediate it would be \$13 million, at least a million to demo[lish] it, and depending on what concept is picked it’s going to take a lot of money to build. So I think we need to be very intentional about it and it can be very transformative for the community.”

Short-term Use

In the meantime the city is hoping to use the site as much as possible to deter graffiti artists – which Salmerón referred to as “aspiring artists” getting a laugh from attendees – and other unwanted visitors from entering the site. Salmerón said some people suggested allowing commercial vehicles to pay to use the parking lot and others in the meeting suggested a food truck event. Greenbelt’s Compost Crew suggested to council that the armory site could be used as a part of the city’s composting initiative in the interim, allowing the Compost Crew to use the property to do “off-site processing.” The extra space would increase composting capacity to 600 residents, said Salmerón.

Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



Raptor in residence: this red-shouldered hawk seems to have adopted the 9 and 11 Courts of Laurel Hill Road and was observed perched on a wire between the court and on the cross-piece of a clothesline post on January 2 and 3. He didn’t flinch when his photo was taken.



A piebald deer in the woods behind Schrom Hills Park on April 3



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Washingtonian’s Face of Prince George’s County Real Estate

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Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

BUDGET continued from page 1

Team, this approach incentivizes residents to think about what they’re sending to the landfill. He said there’s an opportunity to get into a pilot project that would fund “pay-as-you-throw” and an educational component for one year. Ideally this would be combined with integration of the food scrap compost program into the city budget to extend it beyond the grant that currently funds it. Salmerón said that it may be advantageous for the city to take over waste collection in private residential communities, which currently pay private contractors for waste removal, to reduce both the number of heavy vehicles on city streets and overall landfill waste by encouraging their participation in the composting program.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney asked about disposal of nonrecyclable items dumped at city recycling centers. Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll said that’s absorbed in personnel costs. Salmerón added that when taken to the landfill dumped items add to the tipping fees. He reported that recently a \$30,000 camera trailer at the Hanover Parkway recycling facility was demolished when a driver ran into it, and illegal dumping has increased there with no surveillance. The city is hoping to get a replacement trailer through the driver’s insurance company but is also considering stationary cameras for that location.

Traffic Lights

Jordan asked about the flashing lights that have been added to some stop signs. Kim said that effort is spearheaded by Planning and Community Development, with Salmerón clarifying that they’re being paid for by some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to bike-pedestrian improvements.

Jordan noted that the traffic light at Green Ridge House, which is one of two lights the city is responsible for (the other being at Hanover Parkway/Ora Glen Drive in agreement with the State Highway Administration), does not meet current standards but was told there is no funding in the FY 2026 budget to replace it.

Planning and Community Development Director Terri Hruby reported that solar-powered rectangular flash beacons will be installed at new pedestrian crossings at Motiva apartments, Springhill Drive at Cherrywood Lane, and Hanover Parkway at Ora Glen, with flashing yield signs installed at other locations along Hanover Parkway. She said there are no plans to install more

The Public Works team installs solar-powered blinking stop signs in key areas around Greenbelt to improve safety and visibility.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

speed humps but that they are a tool available to address traffic calming requests.

Performance Metrics

Councilmember Kristen Weaver said that it appears from the budget that no bus stops had been made more accessible and that better metrics are needed to document what work has been completed and what still needs to be done. Hruby reported that 59 bus stops are being improved with ARPA funds so are not included in the Public Works budget. She said metrics will be made available once updated bus stop information is added to the city’s Geographic Information System. Weaver also noted that for parks, where acreage generally does not change from year to year, perhaps number of cleanups or other metrics should be devised to demonstrate accomplishments.

Resident J Davis echoed the need for more Public Works performance metrics, saying that McKinney had suggested reporting the number of responses to

resident requests. Davis also suggested reporting the number of maintenance tickets received and responded to.

Accessibility

Resident Michael Hartman asked about the ramps being constructed to improve bus stop accessibility, which Kim clarified are actually curb cuts. Hartman then asked if there is anyone on staff charged with considering accessibility by disabled residents for city projects. Kim replied that the city’s concrete contractor is well aware of Americans with Disabilities Act requirements but no staff member specifically has that expertise, and there are not sufficient funds to hire someone for that role. Salmerón said that some training may be needed but that accessibility is something that all employees should be tuned in to and the city is getting better, adding that changes that address accessibility also are being made to the city website and social media posts.

COUNCIL continued from page 8

which would require sales tax on business services, when sales tax is currently taken only on products. The new rules would include things like accounting and legal services, labor on cars and home repair labor. Roberts noted that the state has a \$3 billion dollar deficit but commented that this was not a good solution for fixing it.

Local Permitting

Council was also alerted to the fact that the state has a working group studying the possibility that municipalities do some of their own permitting (though not zoning). This would presumably reduce city dependence on Prince George’s County’s permitting infrastructure.

Police Car Replacement

Council authorized the replacement of a Dodge Durango police vehicle that was paid for by insurance after a collision – preferring to complete the purchase expeditiously rather than explore the possibilities of electric or hybrid alternatives due to the potential rapid increase in vehicle costs. Council asked, however, that the city manager examine the pros and cons of electric or hybrid replacements in the future. Resident Michael Hartman requested from the audience that a standard part of the proposal for any vehicle should take into account fuel costs and longevity and other factors relating to the evaluation of electric/hybrid choices.

July 4 Fireworks

Council approved the \$20,000 cost of July 4 fireworks, a cost similar to 2024. A drone show was also suggested for evaluation for 2026, though the current cost is thought to be prohibitive – approximately four to five times the fireworks, about which residents have expressed concerns with noise and chemical pollutants in the explosives.

The suggestion was made to Salmerón to evaluate multiple alternatives early for 2026, in-

cluding fireworks with lower noise levels and toxicity and also interest by adjoining communities in collaborating with the city. In terms of drones, there are concerns about Greenbelt’s location in restricted airspace.

Pepco Street Lights

Pepco recently completed a street lights survey and the city signed an agreement identifying the lights in the city that it accepted or rejected responsibility for. The State Highway Administration (SHA) however, has rejected responsibility for lights on state roads and wants to put the burden on municipalities. Salmerón described this as a financial issue likely related to the state deficit.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney suggested, and the council approved, a follow-up meeting with SHA to cover this and similar issues. Salmerón noted that existing legislation gives municipalities responsibility for sidewalks on state roads in their jurisdiction, and possibly the lighting question is associated with that. He stated, and was echoed by Jordan, that other municipalities are similarly opposed. There was consensus that Greenbelt needs to have a follow-up meeting with SHA.

Pompi suggested sending the point of view to state legislators and McKinney’s motion to submit a suitable letter to Greenbelt’s state delegation was accepted.

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Some Residents Reflect on Juvenile Delinquency as More Wheels Stolen

by William Hammann

All four wheels were stolen from several cars in Greenbelt in the past few weeks, mostly around University Square Apartments and neighborhoods directly adjacent to Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Data from the weekly crime reports by the Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) show that 12 cars have had all their tires stolen in the past month. This comes after multiple thefts of a similar nature in the first couple weeks of March as well. Many of these tire thefts occurred on the same day – on April 2, two 2025 Toyota Camry models were found with all wheels missing, two more newer model cars were found with no wheels on April 9 and on April 13, the wheels of three cars were stolen. No suspects have been identified in any of these thefts, but Public Information Officer Ricardo Dennis said that police have noted ongoing incidents of juveniles breaking into cars in recent years. According to GPD crime reports, since February 24 over 35 percent of reported crimes have had to do with theft and vandalism of cars, with the greatest number of cases falling under the category of Stolen Vehicles. Based on the information in the reports, Toyota Camrys appear to be the model targeted the most as they were involved in almost 30 percent of vehicular crimes in the past month.

Youths involved in vehicular-related crimes are not new in Greenbelt. In fall 2023 the News Review reported that young offenders dominated vehicle-related crimes (see the October 20, 2023 issue) and residents discussed youth delinquency that same month (see the October 4, 2023, issue). Last fall we reported that 16 cars were broken into in a single night and had airbags and tires stolen (see the October 10, 2024 issue). Dennis says this is not unique to Greenbelt but is happening throughout the region. Greenbelt police continually adjust their patrols in an effort to prevent the thefts.

“It raises the question: why are these young people not at home in bed on a school night?” said Dennis, who added that when juveniles are apprehended by police they are often released to parents who aren’t necessarily

aware of their behavior.

Greenbelt resident Brianne Boylan saw one such car missing its wheels in her neighborhood on Lakeside Drive, and her own car’s catalytic converter was stolen several years ago. Her brother, she recalled, was what one might call a juvenile delinquent. Stealing things was part of how he survived on the streets from 14 to 18 years old. “He definitely had a traumatic childhood,” said Boylan.

Boylan paused to think about what might have helped her brother back then. She remembered learning about universal basic income, a welfare proposal that guarantees citizens a minimum income unconditionally, and wondered if that could work.

“I think we need activities for teenagers that are interesting and [that] engage them in their communities, so that they don’t want to cause problems for their neighbors,” said Boylan.

Andre Thompson, who also lives in the neighborhood, recalled doing things that might get him into trouble as a 12- or 13-year-old living in Washington, D.C., but said that he stopped when he got himself involved in his community, such as by coaching football. A father himself, Thompson said that he believes juvenile delinquents shouldn’t be released so swiftly after being arrested, but he also said that they need guidance. “The parents need to keep an eye on their kids,” Thompson said. “It starts at home.”

Dennis said that in general, it only takes one to two minutes for each wheel that someone is trying to steal from a car, though this can vary depending on factors such as how many people are involved and the kinds of tools they’re using. The absence of witnesses, video or other evidence poses a challenge to officers responding to calls about theft, he added.

The Greenbelt Police Department posted tips on car theft prevention, including a video posted in Spanish and English on their Facebook page on March 11, 2024.

William Hammann is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 7-13, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two mental health diversions, one involving sexual assault; two domestic incidents, one involving threats and one case involving Child Protective Services.

On April 8 near 7800 Walker Drive, a suspect was arrested on an open felony warrant with the assistance of U.S. Marshals.

On April 10 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a girl was reported missing who has a history of leaving.

Robberies

On April 9 at 8:08 p.m. near 6015 Springhill Drive, a group of juveniles approached a woman and asked if she could break a \$50 bill. When she took out her money, one juvenile took the money from her hands and fled.

On April 9 at 12:56 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, someone reached into a woman’s pocket and stole her medication.

DUI Arrests

On April 10 at 5:34 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Road, officers found a car in the bushes on the side of the road with the driver slumped over the wheel; he was under the influence and was arrested for DUI.

On April 12 at 12:11 a.m. near 6002 Greenbelt Road, a driver crashed into a restaurant, causing minor damage. An officer met with the driver and arrested him for DUI.

On April 12 at 11:32 p.m. near 6027 Springhill Drive, an officer saw a vehicle strike another vehicle while trying to exit a parking space. The driver was under the influence of alcohol and was arrested.

Fraud

On April 10 near 5921 Cherrywood Terrace, someone fraudulently withdrew funds from a bank account.

On April 13 near 5311 Settling Pond Lane, a credit card was opened without authorization.

Shoplifting and Theft

On April 7 at 11:32 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, two men were arrested after stealing items from a nearby store; the merchandise was returned, and the men were released on criminal citations.

On April 7 at 12:35 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, police arrested a shoplifter; the merchandise was returned.

On April 8 at 7:11 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a large amount of food and fled.

On April 12 at 8:49 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a man fled after concealing items in a bag; at 1:38 p.m. near 7901 Mandan Road, a delivery driver reported that four men stole the pizza he was delivering.

Eviction Issue

On April 9 near 6021 Springhill Drive, an individual who had been evicted reentered the unit. They were presented with the eviction notice and advised how to proceed.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Lexus models were targeted this week. Of five vehicles stolen, four were Lexus: on April 8 near 9113 Springhill Lane, a blue 2013 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 3EV0742); on April 11 near 6001 Cherrywood Court, a white 2018 Lexus ES 350 (Md. 5FB1786); near 8001 Lakecrest Drive, a blue 2016 Lexus IS 200 (Md. GH0019); near 129 Westway, a silver 2015 Lexus IS 250 (Md. 2FJ5642); and on April 12 near 221 Lakeside Drive, a black 2016 Lexus IS (Md. 02441CM).

Theft from Auto

All four wheels were stolen from five vehicles: on April 9

from a 2025 Toyota Camry near 9010 Breezewood Terrace and from a 2025 Honda Civic near 211 Lakeside Drive; on April 12 from a 2022 Honda Civic near 9010 Breezewood Terrace; and on April 13, from a 2025 Toyota Camry near 8003 Mandan Road (along with a rear license plate) and from a 2022 Lexus near 7480 Greenway Center Drive.

On April 8 near 7648 Mandan Road, a wallet was stolen from a 2003 Toyota Camry.

On April 9 near 7501 Greenbelt Road, a designer purse was stolen from a vehicle.

On April 11 near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a truck window was broken and several items were stolen; near 6420 Cherrywood Lane, a 2021 Lexus ES 250 had the sunroof broken and items stolen. Sunroofs were broken near 157 Westway on a 2020 Lexus IS and near 155 Westway on a 2024 Lexus NX.

On April 11 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a 2019 Honda was found with a window shattered and items were missing from the car.

On April 12 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a cell phone was stolen from a possibly unlocked vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

On April 7 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a door handle was broken on a 2020 Kia Forte.

On April 8 near 6724 Village Park Drive, the windshield was damaged on a 2004 Toyota Corolla.

On April 12 near 7917 Mandan Road, a side mirror was damaged on a 2018 Honda Accord; near 6400 Ivy Lane, a door handle was broken off a Hyundai Ioniq; and near 9167 Springhill Lane, a window was broken on a Honda Accord.



Turtles bask on a log in the lake at Buddy Attick Park.

PHOTO BY SUZANNE NICHTER




A beaver follows the reflection of a tree on Greenbelt Lake.

PHOTO BY MAUREEN LAMASNEY



Two bufflehead ducks swimming at the lake with a male hooded merganser in the rain.

PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD



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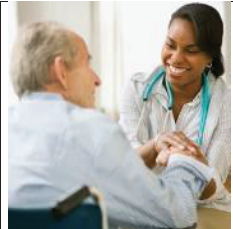
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Tetiana Orlova to Return Home To Ukraine; She Plans to Teach

by Frank Gervasi

Despite the ongoing daily sirens and bombings in Ukraine, it's time for Tetiana to return to her family, friends and community back home. She is looking forward to cuddling the almost year-old granddaughter she has only known on the internet. "I miss them very much," she says. "I feel I can be of more help there than here," although working here has enabled her to monetarily support charities back home.

She will join her mother and daughter giving direct aid in Mykolaiv, one of three areas in Ukraine the Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE) is assisting. GRACE also supports two orphanages in Sumy in the north of Ukraine and partners with a group distributing aid in Kharkiv in the east.

Ukrainians in shelters receive an Award for Endurance, a certificate acknowledging hardships they have faced in over three years of confronting Russian aggression. The award comes with cash and supplies like clothing, eyeglasses, medical supplies and other needs. The certificates, written in English and Ukrainian, include the regional flag image along with the Greenbelt flag.

Tetiana says that living in Greenbelt for a year and a half



Orlova with the GRACE board of directors, from left: Bill Jones, Linda Coleman, refugee Tetiana Orlova, Frank Gervasi, Joyce Campbell and Steve Skolnik

has "broadened her horizons" and she now sees many ways to help her hometown.

GRACE brought Tetiana here in December 2023. They provided her with an apartment, furnished almost entirely with items donated from our very generous community. Hers was one of three such apartments GRACE maintains for refugees. Her youngest daughter, Kateryna, was to join her here, but decided it was more important for her to continue working in Ukraine.

Tetiana arrived with little English-speaking ability but with the

help of a number of local volunteers has learned to speak English passably well. She is a very determined and hard worker also studying English online at Prince George's Community College.

Great with children as a mother of three and grandmother of three more, she worked during summer 2024 for the city-run camps, Pine Tree and Creative Kids. She also has been working at the Children's Learning Center in Greenbriar Community Center.

As a former language instructor, she plans to continue teaching. Perhaps she will open a guest house and hire Ukrainians made homeless by the war to run it. "I see many opportunities there," she said.

NASA continued from page 2

would be cut under the passback's scenario is the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, which is being assembled at Greenbelt's GSFC and is planned to launch as early as next year. (To learn more about the telescope, see Community Events on page 3.) "The passback cuts would be extremely painful for NASA science and Goddard in particular, eliminating big ongoing projects like the Nancy Grace Telescope, which is supposed to launch in the next two years," the source at NASA HQ told the News Review.

Impact on GSFC

"The budget cuts also appear intended to force the closure of Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland," reported Ars Technica, though they did not share how closure would be forced. The employee at NASA HQ felt it unlikely GSFC would be completely closed or divested. "The facilities themselves are far too critical to the U.S. space industry. But its workforce could be significantly hollowed out,"

suggested our source. Those facilities include, for example, the world's largest clean room – a 1.3 million cubic foot "high bay" room where the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope were constructed and where the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is currently nearing completion.

Not the Final Budget

The passback is not a final budget. NASA is currently awaiting a new administrator. Trump's nominee is entrepreneur and billionaire Jared Isaacman, who is also a pilot with an aeronautics degree. Isaacman has yet to be confirmed. During his confirmation hearings earlier this month, in his opening statement Isaacman said, "I am an advocate for science." He outlined three objectives and the third was "NASA will be a force multiplier for science." Isaacman is expected to be voted in and will want to weigh in on the budget. Congress, too, is expected to push back to some extent.

Unusual Case of a Rabid Deer Found in County Raises Concern

by Lysandre Chaabi

The Prince George's County Health Department reported that a white-tailed deer tested positive for rabies. The doe was spotted by a civilian at the 5700 block of Livingston Road in Oxon Hill at about 6 p.m. on February 24. The animal appeared very ill and weak and was subsequently euthanized. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) later confirmed the rabies case on February 28.

This discovery raises concerns about the presence of rabies in other animals in the county and potential risks to humans. "Rabies is a life-threatening disease that is prevented by starting post-exposure treatment as soon as possible," said Dr. Matthew D. Levy, Prince George's County health officer, in a press release.

The MDH, when contacted, expressed concern about this rabies case in a deer. "In Maryland, rabies is most frequently found in wildlife, most commonly raccoons, foxes, skunks and bats. Domestic animals, including livestock, are also at risk, and cats are the most frequently identified rabid domestic animals," the agency said.

However, cases of rabies in deer are very rare. "Very uncommon. Deer are not a common rabies vector species," said Kevin Lamp, DNR deer project leader. In fact, in most cases, aggressive behavior in deer is not caused by rabies. "We do get reports of aggressive deer, but it is almost always associated with habituation, which is when wildlife become accustomed to humans, often due to feeding, and lose their fear of humans," Lamp added.

This rabies case in a deer is concerning, leading to questions about whether the virus could spread among other deer or humans in the county. However, Lamp believes this is unlikely. According to the MDH, rabies spreads more easily between other mammals such as foxes rather than deer.

Still, Lindsay Thomas, chief communications officer of the National Deer Association, reminds residents to be cautious when encountering a deer behaving abnormally. "When the public observes a deer (or other wildlife) that appears sick, is not behaving normally, appears disoriented and may have lost its fear of humans or other dangers, we encourage them to immediately notify their state wildlife agency," said Thomas.

In addition, the county's deer population is under monitoring and control. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has several mechanisms in place to manage deer populations, including long hunting seasons, population quotas and regular monitoring for diseases such as epizootic hemorrhagic disease and chronic wasting disease.

This rabies case appears to be an isolated incident rather than an outbreak. However, county officials are urging residents to stay vigilant and seek medical attention immediately if they or their pets have been in contact with a potentially rabid animal.

Lysandre Chaabi is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

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Conversations in Portraiture

by Penny Eileen Martin

Ann Dunne, an artist, writer and Greenbelt resident, is currently displaying some of her paintings in the lobby of the Greenbelt Arts Center. Dunne’s life has been one of transformation – from nun to stewardess, activist to artist. Born in 1938 in St. Paul, Minn., she left the convent to explore the world. Now in Greenbelt, she continues to weave her experiences into her art. Dunne’s portraits are more than images; they are dialogues, exchanges between the artist and the subject. Rather than striving for a perfect likeness, Dunne lets curiosity guide her hand. Many of these works are featured in her newly published book: *Conversations with Unexpected Guests*, which invites readers to step into the dialogue.

Questions? There will be an opportunity to meet and talk to the artist at a reception in the Greenbelt Arts Center lobby on Friday, April 25 from 4 to 7 p.m.



Photograph of the artist

PHOTO COURTESY GAC WEBSITE



A painting by Ann Dunne

PHOTO BY PENNY MARTIN



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Alcoholism Awareness Month

Greenbelt Cinema Will Host Free AA Education Event

by Tom Adams

In the next hour, 20 people will die from a pervasive condition for which Bill Wilson discovered a formula for recovery, yet few know his name. The condition is alcoholism and the formula is Alcoholics Anonymous, which he co-founded in 1935 with physician Bob Smith. Alcoholism, drugs and other addictions impact all of us, whether in our home, family, work or school.

On Sunday, April 27 at 5 p.m., the Greenbelt Cinema, with the Greenbelt Step Club, other Twelve Step Clubs and Greenbelt Publishers, will host a free recovery education event open to all. The goal is to broaden public understanding of addiction and recovery for individuals and families.

The event offers the PBS documentary, *Bill W.*, which unravels false notions about addiction and recovery. It tells how Wilson, a New York stock analyst, nearly died from alcoholism and founded Alcoholics Anonymous, a proven path to recovery and a world-wide organization with two million members in 180 nations. The emotion-packed story will broaden viewers’ understanding of what can and cannot be done to help people with alcoholism or other addictions.

Local writer and Twelve Step veteran Tom Adams and co-author Joy Jones will also introduce their book, *A Marriage that Changed the World: Lois and Bill Wilson and the Addiction Recovery Movement*. The book notes the contribution of Lois Wilson (Bill Wilson’s wife and partner) to Alcoholics Anonymous and

Al-Anon, and addresses obvious and hidden ways that addictions destroy families and rob joy.

April is Alcoholism Awareness Month. Alcoholism and addictions are hard to admit, leading to deep denial by the person with the addiction and those who love them. A 2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health reported 28.9 million people ages 12 and older had alcohol use disorder; between 2003 and 2022 drug overdose deaths rose from 8.9 to 32.6 per 100,000 people.

Addiction Awareness

There are countless ways addictions may impact you or someone you love, including:

- Anxiety and anger watching someone you love do irresponsible things and neglect themselves;
- Fear of loss of income or injury to children due to addiction-caused accidents;
- Fear of the death of a spouse, child or friend from addiction;
- Resentment of another’s addiction at home or work and failure to control the impact on you;
- Children anxious and afraid because of a parent’s or grandparent’s addiction.



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HEARINGS continued from page 1

that Abrego Garcia is “no longer eligible” for the protection from deportation that should have prevented him from being sent to El Salvador in the first place.

For weeks, members of the Trump administration have maintained that the deportation was an “administrative error,” but on Monday, some of President Trump’s advisors contradicted that statement on television. “He was not mistakenly sent to El Salvador,” said Stephen Miller, Trump’s homeland security advisor. “This was the right person sent to the right place.” Miller’s statement directly opposed the Supreme Court ruling, in which the judges stated the government itself had taken the position that the removal to El Salvador was “the result of an ‘administrative error.’”

On Monday, April 14, El Salvador’s President Nayib Bukele met with President Trump at the Oval Office and said he has no plan for returning Abrego Garcia. Currently, Abrego Garcia is being held in El Salvador’s Terrorism Confinement Center, CECOT, a mega-prison where hundreds of other immigrants deported from the U.S. are confined.

“Of course I’m not going to do it,” said Bukele in response to a reporter asking if El Salvador’s government would release Abrego

Garcia, adding that the question was “preposterous.”

Trump officials on Monday maintained their argument that Abrego Garcia is a member of the criminal gang MS-13, despite Abrego Garcia’s lawyers denying every claim and Judge Paula Xinis’ finding of no evidence of any gang affiliation.

Following the Supreme Court’s decision, on Friday Xinis ordered the Trump administration to provide daily updates about what it is doing to get Abrego Garcia back to the U.S. – which it has failed to do. A hearing before Xinis took place at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, at the Green-

belt District Court, where protestors again gathered in support of Abrego Garcia and his family.

On Monday, Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen (D) said in a news release that if Abrego Garcia isn’t returned home by midweek, he would travel to El Salvador himself to discuss his release. “Since the Trump Administration appears to be ignoring these court mandates, we need to take additional action,” Van Hollen said.

Diya Shah is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



People gather in support of Kilmar Abrego Garcia outside the courthouse on Tuesday afternoon.



Rina Gandhi, the lawyer for Kilmar Abrego Garcia, speaks to media and supporters after Tuesday's court appearance.



Mango, a very good girl, is dressed for the rain while supporting Kilmar Abrego Garcia outside the courthouse on Friday, April 11.

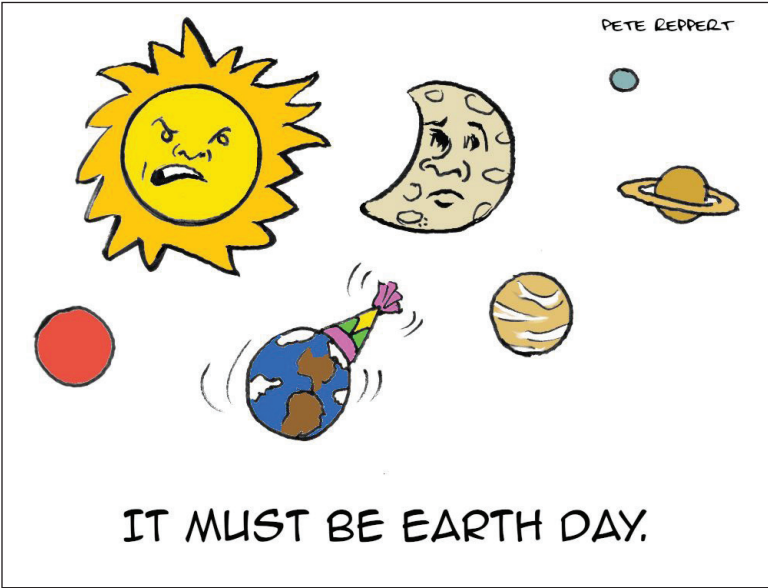


Protesters hold signs outside the court on Tuesday.



Celebrating Earth Day In Greenbelt, Beyond

by Ryan Colasanti



The United States is celebrating its 55th annual Earth Day on April 22. The tradition was started in 1970 when Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin created the event to bring attention to the lack of protections and care given to the environment, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website. In the 10 years that followed the creation of the EPA, the Clean Air Act was put into place and the tradition of Earth Day was maintained.

Today, Earth Day is a global event drawing more than one billion participants around the globe, as mentioned in a National Geographic Kids article. According to earthday.org, the theme for this year is Our Power, Our Planet, inviting everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy and to triple the global generation of clean electricity by 2030. Visit the website for ideas

about how to take action.

Greenbelt will celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 26 at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Volunteers and members of the Public Works Department will meet at the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) Food Forest at the Community Center to plant trees and other natural vegetation and to remove invasive plant species. The event will start at 10 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. People can register for the event by scanning the QR code found at greenbeltmd.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/9390/60 or by emailing Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov.

Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



A squirrel sits on a stump eating a nectarine.



This tenacious daffodil will not be denied on Gardenway.